



S.S. CALIFORNIA

Oct. 24th 1936.

Dear Mother.

I am getting towards my
 journey's end, we expect to be in
 Port Said tomorrow evening. The voyage
 has been very comfortable but quite
 uneventful & I shall not be sorry
 to be on land again, today it is
 comfortably warm & the sea is like
 a blue mirror, we saw the outline
 of Crete early this morning & I expect
 our next sight of land will be a few
 palm trees sticking up on the coast
 near Port Said, one sees the trees
 long before any land is visible, they
 look very queer, like a sailing boat
 on a river when one is not near
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2

188

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There are some Indian ladies on board. They wear their native costume, wonderful patterned silks with the most marvelous borders, gold embroidery & sequins etc, there are three who look middle aged, they are stout & heavy looking, but the fourth is one of the loveliest girls I have ever seen, she is no darker than a spanish woman & has perfect features & indescribable eyes, she is like one of the figures in some of the early Persian paintings, she sits at a table in a line with my table, so that I get a good view of her at meal times.

The rest of the passengers are very ordinary, there are the usual

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3

number of girls going out to India to
be married & very thrilled with
everything, married couples returning
from home leave, & wives going
back to their husbands, some eagerly
& some reluctantly, there are the
usual harassed mothers dealing
with the usual unruly offspring,
& the more well-to-do parents travelling
with a nurse, either an ayah or
an English nurse in white uniform.
We also have some of the army with
us, their red mess jackets look
very cheery in the dining saloon.

I went down to the baggage
room yesterday, & saw the baggage
master about my luggage. I wonder
how my apples & pears are getting
on, I hope to unpack them in about
a weeks time.

I shall do a little packing
this evening before I dress for dinner

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4
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 I hav'nt really got very much to do
 it is more a case of putting winter
 clothes at the bottom of the case
 & summer things on top.
 My next letter will be from
 Cairo.
 Much love to you & father.
 Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

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